396 "I have enlarged my canoe." When the log is hollowed out they turn the opening downward and make a fire beneath it. This makes the opening larger. Then they force a stout stick across it and spread the sides. They stop when it is the right size. [115]

501 Pirogues, called canaoa, are the galleons of the Caribs. They are 60 feet long more or less. They are raised on the sides with planks. They hold crews of fifty to sixty men and even more. The distance between gunwales in the middle is eight to ten feet, and they have 484 two very large and wide sails. They travel 200 to 300 leagues on 431 the sea, and go as far as Cayenne and Surinam to join the Galibis who are their allies, either to barter their goods and bring back other kinds, or to form an army to attack the Arawaks who are their enemies. [108]

[253] They carry grated flour in bundles in their canoes. When they arrive at a place they press it and cook it. It is sometimes very sour when it is old. [264]

000 The French have learned from the Caribs how to dig out logs and make canoes, but they did not learn how to paddle and steer them, nor did they learn how to jump into the sea to right them when they have capsized. The Caribs are not afraid of capsizing, of wetting their clothes, or of losing everything and drowning. But the French for the most part are afraid of all these things, and do not wish to lose all their belongings from the canoe or risk their lives, for they have seen fatal accidents happen very often. [331]

396 In the islands worms pierce the hulls of boats so that after two 314 years it is necessary to line them again or abandon them. [162] The Caribs take branches or sticks of mahot and peel off the bark which they crush with a stone. Then they cut it in pieces as long as a hand, and use it as oakum to calk the seams of their canoes. Sometimes they add gum instead of pitch, but not very often. [164] To make elemi gum they slash a chibou tree. The next day they collect the gum which flows out abundantly. The Caribs use it to tar their pirogues and make from it a beautiful black which they call cóina [185] Máne noumánien is a black resin from South America which they use as pitch. [352]

502 The paddles of the Caribs differ from French oars. They are polished and are about six feet long. They hold the top of the handle in one hand while the other hand is close to the blade. They dip it straight in, breaking the water when they paddle. [366] They use a

6: Taylor E-5 (1930-1937) 1938
ST13 Callinago ST13

237 once imported but now found in a wild state, makes a typical comb (locally called "cassava") whose wax, at first yellow, becomes quite white on boiling and straining. Left to itself, it soon becomes hard. On the other hand, the native stingless bee (sometimes called "pou lélé"), small and dark of color, makes a sort of pouch about a foot long, interiorly divided into pockets, in lieu of comb. The wax is brown-black and remains perfectly malleable, however long it is kept. For this reason it is often used for molding figurines, etc. The honey itself is liquid, very slightly viscous, of a clear brown hue, and has a fragrant subacid taste (miel sûr).

● 314 Two kinds of oil are commonly made and used in the reserve today. Carapate oil, so-called, is nothing more than the oil of the palma Christi, castor oil, one or two of which shrubs grow near every house. The berries are gathered when ripe and stored until required in baskets or calabashes in the kitchen. When oil is wanted they are roasted, pounded in a mortar, and the resulting paste boiled, whereupon the oil rises to the surface and is skimmed off. The women make this [302] oil and use it for anointing their hair. The *Carapa guianensis*, from which oil used to be made, still grows in the woods of Dominica, but is used today only for its wood.

237 Shark oil, made by the men, is used in cruses for interior lighting. [372 Boiled together with copal gum and mixed with dry plaintain straw, it 501] serves in the calking of canoes.

Turtle oil is known to have been made and used for cooking, but owing to the present rarity of this animal and the laws made for its preservation is seldom met with today.

314 Coconut oil is occasionally made for sale but is never put to any domestic use in Carib households.

Manni (*Moronobea coccinea*?) is the name given to a blackish resinous substance used by the Caribs for strengthening the *Bromelia* twine with which they bind their baskets. I have seen lumps of it as big as a man's fist in the homes of basket makers. It is interesting to note that the tree from which this resin comes is not found in Dominica, nor, as far as I know, in the neighboring islands. The Caribs seek and gather their supply on the beach, where the ocean currents deposit it at certain times of the year, chiefly in February and March.

386 Pigments are singularly ignored nowadays. Roucou (*Bixa orellana*) still grows near many of the houses, but as the wearing of clothes has become general since the introduction of Christianity, its use as a skin protection against sun and insects has been forgotten. It is at present used occasionally as a decorative coloring matter in the home, but the present-day Caribs do not know of any fixative medium. Formerly it was used, mixed with oil of carapa, as a body paint, and the bright red pigment obtained by rubbing between the palms of the hands the ripe seeds contained in a half-opened pod.

6: Taylor E-5 (1930-1937) 1938
ST13 Callinago ST13

The High Woods

The Caribs' intelligence is in their hands and feet. I suspect their own word for incompetent, mabuku, to mean "without feet"; and, just as the typical Frenchman's ability is best described by that untranslatable word, "débrouillard," so the characteristic virtue of the Carib may be summed up in the word "mainoeuvre." The true Carib is neither a hard nor a quick worker, but he is always able to maneuver his way out of a difficult situation in order to accomplish what he is after. "Where there's a will, there's a way" is a motto which suits him well, and nowhere does he show this better than on the high sea and in the high woods. 314 ●

The high woods (in patois: les grands bois) are those tracts of virgin forest that still cover much of the island's mountainous interior. They lie, as a rule, well over 500 feet above sea level, and it is in them that the gigantic gommiers, chataigniers (*Sloanea*), cedars, rosewood, and other forest kings reach their full majesty. Here the Caribs come to saw wood for posts, boards, and shingles; to fell and hew the gommier for their canoes; to cut larouman for their basketry; to hunt the agouti, the wild pig, the wood pigeon, and the parrot; to search for wawa (*Rajania cordata* L.), berries, and wild honey; to fish the streams with bait, trap, and poison for mullet, crayfish, and other varieties. [313] [274]

The young shoot or cabbage of the mountain palmiste (*Euterpe montana*) provides a pleasant and wholesome salad. It is true the tree must be felled in order to obtain this, but, when this is done at full moon, the bole becomes the refuge of a species of beetle, the *Calandra palmarum*, whose fat white grub constitutes a culinary delicacy much appreciated locally under the name of ver palmiste. This is the reverse of the process employed in cutting trees for dugouts. These are felled at the new moon in order to prevent the incursion of borer worms and grubs. Certain plants and trees, such as the male papaya, are cut down at certain phases of the moon in order to make them spring up again as female, that is, as fruit-bearing trees. Wild pineapples, sapodillas (*Anacardium occidentale*) are to be found in the woods, as also the fruits of the balate and balata trees (*Oxythece hahnianum* and *Mimusops riedleana*), of the bois cote (*Tapura guianensis*), courbaril (*Hymenaea courbaril*), and icacque (*Hirtella* sp.). [262]

Wild honey of two sorts is to be found: that known as "sûr" (sour) from the small native stingless bee, or "pou lélé," which produces the black wax already mentioned, and the "gros miel" from the (probably imported) ordinary bee in a wild state. The Caribs are fond of eating the white grub or larvae (in patois: cousins) of both varieties—usually together with the honey, raw.

Water may be obtained on the heights from the corde de l'eau (*Pinzona*), a species of stout liana which releases, when cut, a pint or so of cool, refreshing sap. 271

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

Anatherum zizanioides Hitchcock and Chase, Contrib. U.S. Nat. Herb. 18: 285. 1917. 814x
Khus-khus [7]. — Vetiver.

Vetiver is a native of Asia but is cultivated in the tropics of both hemispheres.

Screens used to perfume living quarters are constructed from the roots of this species (23). In Dominica, as elsewhere, the roots are dried and bundled to place in drawers for scenting linen, etc. [314]

The leaves of vetiver are bleached by boiling, are sundried, and then are split in two by the Caribs for plaiting hats. [285]

Specimen citation: 227.

Zea mays Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 971. 1753.
Maize, Indian Corn. — Maïs (French); maï, mi (patois). — *audsi* (m) (cf. Tupi *abata*), *máristi* (w).

Maize is a tropical American contribution to the world's cereals, yet the exact source of its origin in the Americas is still debatable. It has been grown as a basic American crop since prehistoric time, and even in pre-Columbian days was cultivated from southern Canada to Chile and Argentina (1) (21) (22). Corn was first seen growing in the West Indies by Columbus, who called it maiz. According to MANGELSDORF and REEVES (38), the flint corn so characteristic of the West Indies, was probably introduced from South America although it is most closely related to Central American types. [177]

Corn is grown for food by the Island Caribs who always eat it roasted, never boiled; nor is corn flour ground locally. Actually this vegetable is more a delicacy with the Indians than a staple food, and is reputed to have the properties of an aphrodisiac. Kernels of maize are sown or planted in preference by newly pregnant girls who believe their condition will cause the plant to bear more abundantly. As in all other agricultural activities — sowing and reaping, felling timber, etc. — planting of corn is rigidly regulated by the phases of the moon. 814x 243 [252]

Specimen citation: no herbarium material collected.

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[7] Varieties of the yam (*Dioscorea trifida*) with purplish, reddish, or whitish flesh are also called « khus-khus » or « kus-kush » in Dominica.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

824 X

Coccoloba uvifera (Linnaeus) Jacquin, Enum. 19. 1760.
Sea Grape. — Raisin Bord-de-mer. — *báibai* (m), *alíl* (w).

The sea grape is a widespread littoral species of the West Indies and continental tropical America.

The hard timber has various uses but at one time was used [411] by the Caribs for war clubs, and the like. From the scraped bark is obtained a gum which dries hard and which was formerly [314] employed as a varnish on painted and split stems of larouman (*Ischnosiphon arouma*). The fruits are eaten and in the past were [272] crushed in water to make a beverage.

Specimen citation: 1605, 3316.

CHENOPODIACEAE. Goosefoot Family.

Chenopodium ambrosioides Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 219. 1753.
Chenopodium anthelminticum Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 220. 1753.
Wormseed. — Semen Contra.

Wormseed is a strong-scented annual plant widely distributed in the temperate and tropical regions of both the Old and New World.

A «tea» made from its leaves is drunk by the Carib as a [278] beverage or is used to deworm children. The leaves are also one [846] constituent of a ritual bath given to the mother after childbirth (see *Ocimum micranthum*).

Specimen citation: 3364.

AMARANTHACEAE. Amaranth Family.

Amaranthus spp.
Epinard, L'Epinard.

Weedy species of this genus are common throughout the world, and many can be employed as potherbs. At least two species, *Amaranthus viridis* L. and *Amaranthus spinosus* L., are so used in Dominica (31).

The Carib Indians cook and eat these plants as green vege- [262] tables.

Specimen citation: no herbarium specimens collected.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

824 X

material is used also in calking canoes [22]. By some Indians maho noir fiber is considered superior to that of maho doux (*Hibiscus tiliaceus*); by others it is considered inferior.

[396] [184]

Specimen citation: 3256.

Oxandra laurifolia (Swartz) A. Richard [23] in Sagra, Fl. Cub. 20. 1845.

Bois Pian.

A forest tree recorded in the Antilles from Cuba to Dominica.

The dense, fine-grained, tough, yellow wood is said to equal boxwood, and is imported into England under the name «lancewood spars» (18).

Bois Pian wood has a strong, pharmaceutical odor when cut, and its sap is said by some to have been used by the Caribs in the treatment of yaws («pians»). However, the name may allude to the characteristic yaw-like markings found on the trunk.

[278]

Specimen citation: 28 (T), 129 (T).

LAURACEAE. Laurel Family.

Ocotea sp. [24]

Laurier de rose. — *kuldúako*.

In Dominica laurier de rose occurs on forested slopes from lower to middle elevations, but due to its general demand for construction purposes it has become rare.

The aromatic, strong, durable timber of this species formerly was much used by the Caribs for fashioning the boards on which they slept in their *mwina*, etc.

[352]

Specimen citation: 102 (T).

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[22] When so employed it is mixed with gomme (gum elemi, *Dacryodes excelsa*) boiled in shark oil.

[314 237]

[23] A provisional identification, based only on sterile material.

[24] The available herbarium material of laurier de rose includes only staminate flowers making it difficult to determine the species with any certainty but the specimen suggests either *O. dominicana* Meisn. or *O. staminea* Mez. The species *Phoebe elongata* (Vahl) Nees has also been tentatively identified as laurier de rose.

13: Hodge & Taylor N. E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

This small shrubby tree is found in southern Florida, the Bahamas, as well as throughout the West Indian islands.

The leaves of tan, when moistened and rubbed on an article to be colored, yield a mauve dye. This dye is used in coloring the roots of the lianas called *mîbi* (*Anthurium palmatum* or *Monstera pertusa*), employed in the manufacture of the spiral baskets of the Carib women.

Specimen citation: 11 (T), 16 (T), 3191.

Picrasma antillana (Eggers) Urban, Symb. Ant. 5: 378. 1908.
Aeschrion antillana Small, North Am. Flora 25: 233. 1911.
Bitter Ash (8). — Simaruba [20].

Bitter Ash is a large forest tree of the Lesser Antilles.

The bark, sap, and wood contain a very bitter principle which is considered by the Carib to be of medicinal value. Chips of the wood are soaked in water which is then drunk for loss of appetite; and the sap (mixed with scrapings from the bottom of the shell of the conch called *lambi*), expressed from the bark, is applied externally as a cure for yaws (framboesia).

Specimen citation: 103 (T).

Simarouba amara Aublet, Pl. Guian. 2: 859. 1775.
Bois Blanc, Montagne. — *simáruba*.

A large tree known from the West Indies, Guiana, and Brazil.

Bois blanc is a familiar tree of Dominica's moist middle elevation forests where it is considered an important timber species. Because it is a host to insects injurious to citrus, bois blanc is often eliminated from the vicinity of the orchards. The wood is most frequently sawn into boards or converted into charcoal but it may be utilized for all kinds of timber requirements.

The Island Caribs employ bois blanc for all these purposes.

Specimen citation: 1195, 1652.

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[20] This Creole name should not be confused with the Carib name *simaruba* which is applied by the Indians to the species which follows.

13: Hodge & Taylor N. E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

BURSERACEAE. Gumbo-Limbo Family.

X824 **Bursera simaruba** (Linnaeus) Sargent, Gard. & Forest 3: 260. 1890.

Bursera gummifera Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. ed. 2: 471. 1762.

Elaphrium simaruba Rose in No. Am. Fl. 25: 246. 1911.

Gumbo-Limbo, West Indian Birch, Turpentine Tree, Gum Tree. — Gommier Rouge.

This conspicuous tree is widespread in the West Indies, also in the continental American tropics, particularly in dry thickets at lower elevations.

In the Greater Antilles gumbo-limbo is frequently planted as a roadside shade tree.

[752] [417] The Caribs apply the fragrant gum of gommier rouge locally as a plaster for contusion or internal injury. Because cut posts readily take root and grow, the tree is also used to construct « live » fences.

Specimen citation: 3146.

Dacryodes excelsa Vahl, Skr. Nat. Selsk. 6: 117. 1810.

Dacryodes hexandra Grisebach, Fl. Br. W. I. 174. 1859.

Gommier. — *sibu* (« support, buttress »).

A tall columnar tree found in the Antilles from Puerto Rico to Grenada. In Dominica's mountain rain forests the gommier is one of the dominant species.

Throughout the Caribbee isles the straight trunks of this species have been much used in the construction of dugout canoes.

[314] A white fragrant resinous gum (known to the Caribs as *kurukai*), « gum elemi » exudes freely from any incision made on the slaty gray trunks of gommier rees. The material hardens in the air so the gum can be readily scraped off and put to a number of uses. [302] Breton (7) records that it served as an unguent used by the youths and maidens on feast days. It is employed to light fires [373] and to make torches [with the wick of pounded bois diable wood (*Licania ternatensis*), tree fern caudex (*Cyathea arborea*), or z'icaque wood (*Chrysobalanus icaco*)]. Boiled together with shark oil [396] and mixed with cotton-lint, maho fiber (*Guatteria*, *Hibiscus*, etc.),

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

or plantain straw (*Musa*), it is used to calk canoes. When burnt the gum produces a fine black soot, called by the Caribs *kuina*, which was formerly mixed with oil to form a black paint for coloring strands of larouman (*Ischnosiphon arouma*) or for drawing decorative lines on the face or body. The gum serves as a masticatory said to allay shortness of breath, and is also applied to an aching or hollow tooth.

Present day Carib craftsmen fashion their dugout canoes from the straight trunks of the gommier [21]. A selected tree is felled, hollowed and shaped with axe and adze, and then opened — a widening process affected by applying weights (usually stones) within and gentle heat from low fires built along both sides of the trunk. Planks, usually hewn from gommier, are then added to the gunwales thus raising the sides. Cassava troughs and wooden kitchen mortars are constructed from the trunks of smaller gommier trees.

Specimen citation: 653, 2969.

MELIACEAE. Mahogany Family.

Carapa guianensis Aublet, Pl. Guian. 2. Suppl. 32. 1775.
Acajou. — Bois Carapat, Carapate (from the Carib word, *karapa*, meaning « oil »). — *kuáko*.

A large tree reported in the Lesser Antilles from Guadeloupe to Trinidad and also native to tropical South America. According to Williams and Cheesman (67) the reddish wood is suitable for general construction purposes and the oil from the seeds is useful

[21] In the time of Breton and Labat such dugouts were sometimes constructed from a tree known as red cedar (acajou rouge). Breton (7) writes: « The French call it acajou rouge... shingles are made of it to cover the houses... the savages make their canoes of it, and joiners what they please. Moreover it smells very good; its seed might well be used to make oil ». Unfortunately at least two species in Dominica are known today as acajou, and each possesses a fragrant wood. Only one of these, *Cedrela odorata* L., goes under the Creole name of acajou rouge. Although the characteristics of acajou rouge fulfill somewhat Father Breton's description, the other acajou, *Carapa guianensis*, is the only tree known to the Caribs of the Reserve under this name. Furthermore, the seeds of *Carapa guianensis* were formerly utilised by Caribs in making carapa oil; the samara-like ones of *Cedrela* scarcely fulfill Breton's description.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

1824 **Richeria grandis** Vahl, Eclog. 1: 30. 1796.
Bois Bandé.

This large tree, common in the montane rain-forests of Dominica, ranges from Montserrat to Trinidad.

[314 632 224] The timber of bois bandé is widely used by the Caribs for boards, while a decoction of the bark is reputed to be an aphrodisiac. Hunters are careful not to cut or slash at this particular species when setting out for the chase for they believe any injury to such trees would cause their hunting to be unsuccessful.

Specimen citation: 567, 1318, 1895.

Ricinus communis Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1007. 1753.
Castor-Bean. — Carapate (from the Carib word, *karapa*, meaning « oil »). — *lanalo* (w), *salésé* (m).

A native of the Old World, much cultivated and spontaneous in the West Indies and continental tropical and subtropical America.

The Castor Bean is planted in every Carib dooryard and is known as carapate (the name more correctly applied to *Carapa guianensis*). [302] Ricinus oil is now substituted for the oil of *Carapa guianensis* for hair dressing. Formerly castor oil was possibly mixed (in place of the oil of *Carapa*) with bixet pigment (*Bixa orellana*) to form body paint. The leaves of the Castor Bean are heated and used both as a compress for internal pains and for massaging the spleen. [278 752 846] A special blended purgative tea given after parturition uses castor oil as an ingredient (see *Jatropha* spp.); while another tea, a « cure » for gonorrhea, includes the seeds of this plant (see *Solanum torvum*).

Specimen citation: 570.

Sapium caribaeum Urban, Symb. Ant. 3: 308. 1902.
La Glu, Lagli. — *wlekese*.

This tree is a native of the higher volcanic islands of the Lesser Antilles, and is recorded from Guadeloupe to St. Vincent. In Dominica it occurs chiefly at middle elevations although on the wetter windward side it approaches the coast.

[223] The white sap of this species makes the best bird-lime utilized by the Carib. The lime is obtained by making incisions on the

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

[824] However no authentic herbarium material of this species has been been collected on Dominica.

Tabebuia pallida (Lindley) Miers, Proc. Roy. Hort. Soc. 3: 199. 1863 [43].

White Cedar. — Poirier Blanc.

White cedar is a familiar tree of Central America and Venezuela, and in the West Indies is to be found from Hispaniola to Trinidad. In Dominica it grows commonly in the drier coastal localities.

This fine timber tree is said by the Caribs to exist as «red» and «white» varieties of which the former is preferred for timber. Poirier wood lasts well in salt water, and is used for the ribs and for the built-up sides of dugouts; it is employed also in the construction of mortars, wooden bowls, floor boards, and the like. The bark of the tree, used as a plaster, is said to cure corns. The leaves, either whole or chopped up finely, are placed on sores as a poultice. For a further use of this species see *Ipomoea pes-caprae*.

[314] [396] [278] [752]

Specimen citation: 839, 3292.

GESNERIACEAE. Gesneria Family.

Episcia melittifolia (Linnaeus) Martius, Nov. Gen. 3: 42. 1829. L'Oseille.

A beautiful herbaceous plant common in moist ravines and wet forests of Dominica and Guadeloupe, principally at middle elevations.

[278] The leaves and pink flowers of this species, like those of *Begonia dominicalis* (also called l'oseille) are used by the Caribs to make a tea for colds.

Specimen citation: 827, 828, 829, 830, 1162, 1199, 1345, 1444, 1855, 2212, 2335, 3122, 3241, 3555.

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[43] The leaves of this species vary from a unifoliolate to a multifoliolate condition often on the same plant. A number of segregates have been described based on incomplete specimens showing these variations.